



WATTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (CHARLOTTE HARVEY TRUST)  
REPORT TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2024

The Charlotte Harvey Trust is the charity responsible for the Community Centre on Harvey Street. Thanks to the work of staff, volunteers, the Management Committee and the Trustee, we are continuing to develop the facilities and extend Community use of the Centre. There are now 3 members of staff based at the Centre. Graham our Caretaker, Jo the Food Hub Manager and Sue the Community Projects Officer. Their work has made a big difference in our developments during 2023-24 as has the support of Watton Town Council. This year we have been fortunate again in receiving grants which have enabled the Centre to offer more support to the Community. Watton Community Centre is now a busy and active hub.

**Groups using the Community Centre during 2023-24 include:**

Brownies  
Parent and Toddler Group  
Youth Club and Young Carers Group (Benjamin Foundation)  
Yoga  
Chair Yoga  
Slimming World  
Sewing Group  
Saracens  
Kick Boxing  
Short Mat Bowls  
Stroke Support Group  
NCC Out of School Tuition  
Young Carers (Norfolk)  
HM Prison & Probation Service Dog Training Scheme  
Multiply  
Board Game Group  
Church Group  
Community Voices

**Other Activities during the year 2023-24 include:**

Uniform Sales  
Open Meeting for Consultation on Watton Neighbourhood Plan  
Celebration of First Year of Food Hub  
Private parties/events  
The Mayor's Civic Reception for Volunteers in Watton will be held at the Centre in April

**Projects and other work during the year 2023-24**

Food Hub - this project continues and is now an integral part of the Centre. (See below).  
Community Voices - Community engagement (Funding through Norfolk and Waveney NHS).  
Literacy Project (Funding for Library Corner).  
Multiply (Adult Numeracy programme)  
Warm Spaces (NCF Funding)  
Brannan Roof Replacement  
Lighting replaced by LED lighting, (Part funded by NCF Greening Your Community grant)  
Completion of Toilet Refurbishment programme.  
Introduction of new booking and accounts software.

We hope that in the coming year a Scouts group will be able to join us, and there is a possibility that a local school may use our facilities for a PE programme.

**Food Hub**

Watton Food Hub has now celebrated its first year. The Celebration event was well attended and thanks were given to all our volunteers, sponsors and donors. Although the press did not attend, photos and information were forwarded to local news agencies.

The Hub also featured in a news item on Anglian Television in March, and was mentioned on local radio. Our Hub Manager has represented us at regional events.

There are now 230 families using the Hub, and we are proud to be part of a successful project supporting our local Community.

We are still reminding potential users that referral is not needed to use the Food Hub. We offer heavily discounted food, plus some free food items. Our aim is to “bridge the gap” and help families “make ends meet”. The Hub also aims to help families in offering some advice on finding other support,

During the year the Hub has continued to benefit from funding from Nourishing Norfolk, local donors including traders, and our major local sponsor, Belvoir. Members have also benefitted from the National Household Support Fund as well as food donations from local boxes, and both Lidl and Tesco.

We have received funding that will provide packs of useful basics for Afghan families who recently have been located into Watton.

### **Some Plans for 24 - 25**

Community Group / Information Event

Refurbishment of Kitchen (to Food Safety Standard) to extend activities in the Food Hub and for Centre Users. Currently pursuing funding options.

Website and Signage improvements (We have submitted an application to NCF ‘Love Norfolk’ fund which would pay for the website (£3000) and to install new signage (£2000).

Summer Activities - Fun Tuesdays for Primary aged children. (This project has been accepted for the “Tesco blue tokens”- in store in April)

Develop Literacy Corner. We now have a bookcase and books and intend to order 2x bean bags and 10x banqueting chairs.

**The Trustee and Management Committee would like to thank all the funding agencies, donors, sponsors and volunteers who have done so much to make this a successful year. We also thank all those who use the Centre, for their continued involvement in this Community resource.**